

E-143

SECRET

1. The first of these is the fact that the majority of the population of the United States is now living in urban areas. This is a result of the process of urbanization, which has been going on since the beginning of the 20th century. The population of the United States has increased from about 100 million in 1900 to over 200 million in 1960. At the same time, the population of rural areas has decreased from about 100 million in 1900 to about 50 million in 1960. This has led to a concentration of the population in urban areas, which has had a profound effect on the economy and society.

According to Department of State records, Mr. Wallenberg was assigned to the Swedish mission in Budapest, Hungary, during World War II, and disappeared in December of 1945 following the arrival of Soviet troops in Budapest. In response to repeated inquiries by the Swedish Government, the Soviet Government in February 1957 stated that Mr. Wallenberg had died in a Moscow prison on July 17, 1947. Despite the fact that the Swedish Government has officially raised the issue of Mr. Wallenberg's fate on a number of subsequent occasions, citing that several persons claimed to have seen him alive during the 1950's, the Soviet Government has provided no additional information.

Mr. Wallenberg's half-sister, Mrs. Nina Lagergren, and his half-brother, Mr. Guy von Dardel, have continued to pursue the question of the fate of their half-brother with the Swedish Government and the Swedish Red Cross. Since the Swedish Government and Red Cross are thoroughly familiar with Mr. Wallenberg's case, we believe they are in the best position to make inquiries to the Soviet authorities in the event that further representation would be believed helpful. On occasion, Swedish authorities have asked the U.S. Government to verify information or otherwise to assist in ef-

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Mr. Honorable
David Gray

Types of present tense.

() RELEASE () DECLASSIFY
 () EXCISE () DECLASSIFY
 () ANY IN PART
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MR Cases Only:
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forth to clarify the fate of Mr. Hallenberg. We have done everything possible to comply with the Swedish Government's requests, and shall continue to do so.

Sincerely,

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J. Brian Atwood
Assistant Secretary
for Congressional Relations

Enclosure:

Correspondence Returned.

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